Additional Fast Track Courts

*112. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has approached the 12th Finance Commission for setting up an additional 1500 Fast Track Magisterial Courts to dispose of the huge backlog of cases;

(b) if so, the Finance Commission's reaction in this regard;

(c) the number of cases disposed of by Fast Track Courts in the country during the last three years;

(d) whether the Fast Track Courts are not functioning in some States; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Law and justice (Department of Justice) have approached the 12th Finance Commission for setting up an additional 1500 Fast Track Courts of Magistrates for dealing with non-sessions cases and other crimes, and the Finance Commission has not given their reaction in this regard, so far.

(c) As per the information available, as on 30.6.2003, 1,60,487 cases were disposed of by the Fast Track Courts in the country during the last three years.

(d) and (e) As per the information available, the Fast Track Courts are not functioning in the States of Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim. In respect of the State of Himachal Pradesh, due to low pendency of cases, the State Government was not in favour of establishing Fast Track Courts, but recently it has notified two Fast Track Courts. In respect of the State of Sikkim, no Fast Track Court has been established on account of low pendency of cases in the subordinate courts.